

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference DSW/AT/02636	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/01549	International filing date (day/month/year) 11.04.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 11.04.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F16B2/08		
Applicant BALMORAL GROUP LIMITED et al		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 10.11.2004	Date of completion of this report 08.06.2005	
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Ott, S Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7429 	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB 03/01549

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-11 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2,4,6,7
	No: Claims	1,3,5,8-11
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-11
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
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POINT V

V-1. D1: GB-2288205 discloses a clamp for securing to a pipe or flowline for mounting buoyancy thereon, the clamp comprising (p.1, l.1-6):

- i) a clamp body (40) having surfaces against which buoyancy may abut (p.10, l.11-14)
- ii) means (p.4, l.21-24) for urging the clamp towards the pipe, and
- iii) a radially resilient member (p.5, l.5-6) capable of expanding or contracting to conform to changes in diameter of the pipe.

The wording of claim 1 does not indicate that the clamp body and the radially resilient member are two separate entities and the subject-matter of claim 1 does therefore not meet the requirements of novelty in the sense of Art. 33(2) PCT.

V-2. A similar reasoning applies to the subject-matter of claim 11 which does not either meet the requirements of novelty in the sense of Art.33(2) PCT.

V-3. The subject-matter of claims 3, 5, 8, 10 does not meet the requirements of novelty in the sense of Art.33(2) PCT.

The subject-matter of claim 2, 4, 6, 7 does not meet the requirements of inventive step in the sense of Art.33(3) PCT.

V-4. The subject-matter of claim 9 does not meet the requirements of Rule 6.2 (a) PCT.

V-5 Following deficiencies are pointed out:

- Rule 6.3b)i) and ii) PCT: incorrect two part form of independent claims with regard to D1.
- Rule 6.2 b) PCT in combination with PCT GL 3 III-4.11: no reference numbers.